

BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY COALITION

Press Release

January 14, 2013

Building owners join forces with energy equipment and services providers to advocate for energy efficiency tax reform

Two of Canada's most prominent associations of building owners and operators have partnered with the Canadian Construction Association and six leading associations of energy equipment and services providers to advocate for energy efficiency tax reform. The new group is known as the Building Energy Efficiency Coalition (BEEC).

To create BEEC, the Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA), the Real Property Association of Canada (REALpac) and the Canadian Construction Association (CCA) have joined forces with

- Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada (HRAI)
- Thermal Insulation Association of Canada (TIAC)
- Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating (CIPH)
- Association of Energy Engineers – Southern Ontario Chapter (AEE-SOC)
- Energy Services Association of Canada (ESA)
- Mechanical Contractors Association of Canada (MCAC)

In a detailed submission to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Natural Resources, BEEC makes the points that improved energy efficiency in buildings:

- creates large numbers of good jobs in Canada,
- is the cheapest source of energy available,
- reduces the need for costly new energy infrastructure, and
- reduces greenhouse gas emissions to enable Canada to achieve its emission reduction targets.

BEEC is seeking a modest expansion in the equipment included in CCA Class 43.2. Specifically the BEEC is seeking the inclusion of certain additional heat recovery ventilators and active solar equipment, as well as certain high efficiency heating equipment and high efficiency chillers. (Similar but much more extensive provisions are in effect in the U.S. and the U.K.)

The BEEC believes that in most cases the revised tax treatment of the energy efficiency retrofit investments in Canada will increase government revenue. By saving substantial energy costs, the reform will enable the government to gain tax revenue from the increased net income of the building owner. That is in addition to taxes gained on the profits and wages earned by the manufacturers and installers of the energy efficient equipment, and on the increased wages earned the new workers who are hired.

Speaking for the BEEC, John Dickie says, "Energy efficiency tax reform will create a large number of good jobs, since the work must be done in Canada and much of the equipment is manufactured in Canada. Energy efficiency tax reform is a win-win proposition, good for workers, good for the environment, good for building owners and tenants, and positive for government revenue."

For more information, including more information on the members of the Building Energy Efficiency Coalition, see www.cfaa-fcapi.org/BEEC_proposal.phb OR contact John Dickie, President, CFAA; or David Lyman, Vice-President at 613-235-0101.